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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, adopted resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992 entitled "Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" by which it adopted the Declaration, the text of which was annexed to the resolution. In the same resolution the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the distribution of the Declaration as widely as possible and to include it in the next edition of Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments; invited the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations, among others, treaty bodies and representatives of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to give due regard to the Declaration within their mandates; and requested the Secretary-General to consider appropriate ways for the effective promotion of the Declaration and to make proposals thereon.

2. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of this resolution under the item entitled "Human rights questions". The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of resolution 47/135.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE RELEVANT ORGANS AND BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS GIVING DUE REGARD TO THE DECLARATION WITHIN THEIR MANDATES

A. Commission on Human Rights

3. At its thirty-fourth session, in 1978, the Commission on Human Rights decided to create an informal open-ended working group to draft a declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities on the basis of a draft presented by the former Yugoslavia. The final text of the draft declaration prepared by the Working Group was recommended to and approved by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session, in 1992. In its resolution 1992/16 of 21 February 1992, the Commission transmitted the Declaration to the Economic and Social Council with the recommendation that it be adopted. The Council gave its approval in its resolution 1992/4 of 20 July 1992, recommending the Declaration to the General Assembly for adoption.

4. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission adopted resolution 1993/24 of 5 March 1993, in which it called upon all States to promote and give effect as appropriate to the principles contained in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities as adopted by the General Assembly. The Commission further affirmed that effective measures and the creation of favourable conditions for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, ensuring effective non-discrimination and equality for all, contributed to the prevention and peaceful solution of human rights problems and situations involving minorities.

5. Welcoming the increased attention given by human rights treaty bodies to non-discrimination against minorities and their protection and noting with appreciation the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on ways and means of facilitating the peaceful and constructive solution and management of problems involving minorities by, inter alia, early warning and early action, communication and dialogue among the parties concerned, the Commission urged all treaty bodies and special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission and the Subcommission to give due regard to the Declaration, as appropriate, within their mandates.

6. Expressing the belief that the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights could play a useful role in providing expertise, advice and services related to minorities, the Commission called upon the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments, as part of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights, qualified experts familiar with minority issues, as well as with the prevention, resolution and/or management of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities.

7. The Commission further requested the Secretary-General, in the implementation of resolution 1993/24, to provide additional human and financial resources for such advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights, within the existing overall resources of the United Nations.

B. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

8. The protection of minorities has been the subject of several studies prepared by the members of the Subcommission since the 1960s. The final report of one of its members, Mr. Asbjorn Eide, on possible ways and means of facilitating the peaceful and constructive solution of problems involving minorities 1/ has direct relevance for the implementation of the Declaration. This is especially true with respect to all the recommendations contained in Addendum 4 of the Special Rapporteur's final report. In particular, attention may be drawn to the following recommendations:

...

> "2. Specific guidelines for the recommendations can be derived from a combined use of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. Together, these instruments should be held to constitute minimum rules for peaceful coexistence and constructive cooperation among members of different ethnic, religious and linguistic groups inside States, to be supplemented by the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, when the latter is adopted.
>
> ...

"7. It is recommended that national forums (councils, commissions) be set up to propose, for the national legislature and administration, appropriate guidelines for the combined implementation of ICERD and the 1992 Declaration on Minorities, taking into account the particular situations in the country concerned. The different ethnic, religious and linguistic groups existing in the country, whether minorities or majorities, should be represented in such national forums.

...

"27. In their bilateral relations, States should engage in constructive cooperation to facilitate reciprocal protection of the equality and promotion of group identities. States should conclude bilateral treaties or other arrangements on good-neighbourly relations based on the principles of the Charter and on international human rights law, combining commitments of strict non-intervention with provisions for cooperation in facilitating the promotion of conditions for the maintenance of group identities and transborder contacts by members of minorities.

"28. The contents of the provisions on minorities contained in such treaties and other bilateral arrangements should be based on universal and regional instruments on equality, non-discrimination and minority rights, including the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting on the Human Dimension of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) of 1990 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic Religious and Linguistic Minorities. Where specific minorities are mentioned in such provisions, the treaty should contain an additional provision ensuring that minorities not mentioned in the treaty shall enjoy the same level of protection and promotion of their existence and identity.

...

"36. The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was established in 1947 with the primary task of making recommendations in this field. It should now consider the feasibility and usefulness of the preparation of a comprehensive programme of action which would include measures for the elimination of racial, ethnic and religious discrimination combined with measures to promote the rights of members of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, based on respect for territorial integrity and the promotion of the political and social stability of States. The programme of action should be seen in conjunction with the efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

"37. To develop such a comprehensive programme would correspond to the mandate of the Subcommission as reflected in its title. A broad, coherent strategy would require considerable efforts, drawing together the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism, the concluding observations and general recommendations adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), recommendations for the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, recommendations for the implementation, when adopted, of the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other elements. Should the Subcommission

take it upon itself to draft such a broad programme of action, it would reflect its multidimensional work in the field of prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities.

...

"39. More specifically, the Subcommission should study problems affecting the situation of minorities in several parts of the world.

...

"44. The Commission on Human Rights should consider establishing a working group on minority issues which should provide access to representatives of both Governments and minorities. The mandate of the group might be to examine the situation in different parts of the world and to develop more specific guidelines for the implementation of the 1992 Declaration. The Commission and its working group should thereby be made the focal point for all United Nations activities undertaken within respective mandates. By providing a voice for the groups concerned, it would serve to facilitate communication between minorities and Governments and to develop methods for conflict resolution or direction of the conflict into peaceful channels.

"45. The Commission on Human Rights should ensure that fact-finding and reporting under the special procedures (the thematic and country rapporteurs and the working groups on disappearances and on detention) also address minority issues under the respective mandates.

"46. The Centre for Human Rights should consider the formation of a team dealing with prevention of discrimination and protection of the rights of vulnerable minorities and of indigenous peoples, ensuring continuity and competence in the subject."

9. The Subcommission, at its forty-fifth session, adopted resolution 1993/43 of 26 August 1993, entitled "Protection of minorities", in which it took note of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and expressed its conviction that its implementation was the best guidance for solutions to situations involving minorities in accordance with international law, including the respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

10. The Subcommission recommended to the Commission on Human Rights:

"(a) To study the proposal contained in recommendation 44 of the report aimed at the establishment of a working group on minority issues open to representatives of both Governments and minorities, and the mandate to be given to such a group;

"(b) To study and to give advice to the Centre for Human Rights concerning recommendations 46 and 47 of the report, in particular ways in which the programme of technical assistance and advisory services can help in the prevention of group conflicts."

11. In another resolution, 1993/42 of 26 August 1993, entitled "Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities", the Subcommission, desirous of increasing the effectiveness of the implementation of the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, appealed to all States to take all the necessary municipal, legislative, administrative and other measures to promote and give effect to the principles of the Declaration, paying special attention to the protection of the rights of national or ethnic minorities in areas of armed conflict. It strongly appealed to all States to conclude bilateral or, where possible, multilateral agreements in order to ensure the rights of national or ethnic minorities in their countries, and to observe them in accordance with the standards of international law and of international humanitarian law in cases of armed conflict that directly affected their interests.

C. United Nations Centre for Human Rights

12. The main function of the Centre for Human Rights in the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities is to assist the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission and the Subcommission, as well as the relevant treaty bodies, in this endeavour.

13. The Centre also carries out research and studies in this field, assists in the preparation of reports by special rapporteurs and administers the programme of advisory services and technical assistance relating to the implementation of the Declaration.

14. In particular, in compliance with Subcommission resolution 1991/22 and decisions 1992/112 of the Commission and 1992/254 of the Economic and Social Council, the Centre convened a technical meeting of experts on minorities, which took place at Geneva from 2 to 4 February 1993. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the six experts to exchange views on the progress reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission and to supply him with a useful basis for guidance in finalizing his study. The views expressed, however, were also useful for the debate on the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration. 2/

15. The participants particularly welcomed the adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly, expressing their hope that its provisions would be used increasingly as points of reference by the international human rights bodies and cited in national and international court decisions.

16. It was noted that no definition of minorities was contained in the Declaration. Participants expressed doubts as to the necessity or usefulness of such a definition. The belief that a common definition and a common set of rights should apply to all minorities had been an obstacle in the past.

17. They suggested that a more practical approach should be found. It should emphasize a proper analysis of the particular problem faced by the minority in a given situation and finding a solution to that problem in conformity with

international law in general and human rights instruments in particular. This approach should also guide the efforts to implement the Declaration.

18. Additionally, the Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and within the framework of its technical cooperation programme with Romania, organized in May 1993 the Workshop on Conflict Resolution between Citizens and State Organs. Participants were selected from among minorities, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

19. The Centre also organized, with the Municipality of the City of Barcelona and the United Nations Association of Spain, the European Conference on International Human Rights Standards for the countries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in January 1992. Minorities and refugees were among the main topics covered by the Conference. The Conference concluded with two round-table discussions, one of which dealt with the issues of minorities, refugees and migrant workers.

20. Future activities of the United Nations programme of advisory services and technical assistance encompass aid to Governments in improving the situation of national minorities in compliance with the provisions of the Declaration. These services also include the provision of experts to help in drafting laws, the organization of national and regional training programmes, workshops and seminars, and the granting of fellowships and internships.

21. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/135, the text of the Declaration was included in the new edition of Human Rights: a compilation of international instruments. 3/ The Centre also published a Fact Sheet (No. 18) on minority rights to which the text of the draft Declaration as adopted by the Commission on Human Rights was annexed.

III. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

A. International Labour Organization

22. The International Labour Organization (ILO) pointed out 4/ that its principal goals included the promotion of the human rights of indigenous and tribal peoples and the enhancement of their position within national societies, with respect for their cultural specificity. To attain these goals, ILO uses both specific standards on the subject and a targeted technical cooperation programme. These two approaches are closely linked and are mutually supportive.

23. ILO also stated that the sharp growth in inter-ethnic conflicts world wide had revealed the need for a new relationship between the State and indigenous and tribal peoples and other minority groups.

B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

24. The Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization examined at its one hundred forty-first session the protection and promotion, within UNESCO's fields of competence, of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The Executive Board discussed, inter alia, the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and will continue this discussion at its next session. The subject is also being considered by the General Conference of UNESCO at its current twenty-seventh session in the context of proposed programme and budget for 1994-1995.

25. The June 1993 issue of The UNESCO Courier, devoted to the question of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, discussed the provisions of the Declaration.

26. In addition, in collaboration with UNESCO, the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences organized a workshop entitled "Democracy and Minorities in Post-Totalitarian States" in Moscow, from 8 to 10 September 1993. Scholars and experts from Europe, North America, States of the former Soviet Union and representatives of international organizations were invited to analyse the political and legal status and situation of minorities in both the Republics of the former Soviet Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, to determine and evaluate the most urgent issues and to elaborate recommendations based on the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, as well as on resolution 1993/24 of the Commission on Human Rights.

27. In collaboration with UNESCO and with its support, the Maragopoulos Foundation is organizing an international expert meeting on "New Forms of Discrimination" that will take place in Athens, in March-April 1994.

28. The General Conference of UNESCO is discussing measures to assure the implementation of such international instruments as the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the International Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and other relevant international legal texts.

IV. TREATY BODIES

A. Human Rights Committee

29. The Human Rights Committee, a body of independent experts that monitors the observance of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has given opinions on a number of communications submitted by persons complaining of violations of article 27. The Committee, in its interpretation of article 27, might take into account the provisions of the Declaration.

30. The Committee's assistance in conflict prevention can also be regarded as a direct contribution to the implementation of the Declaration. For instance, at its forty-sixth session, held from 19 October to 6 November 1992, the Human Rights Committee considered the special reports it had urgently requested from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in view of the "recent and current events" in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina.

31. In its decision 5/ the Committee also requested from the States concerned a short report on measures taken in relation to articles 6 and 12 of the Covenant, to prevent and combat the policy of "ethnic cleansing" pursued, according to reports, on the territory of the former Yugoslavia; measures taken to prevent arbitrary arrests and killings of persons, as well as disappearances, in relation to articles 6 and 9 of the Covenant; measures taken to prevent arbitrary executions, torture and other inhuman treatment in detention camps, in relation to articles 6, 7 and 10 of the Covenant; and measures taken to combat advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, in relation to article 20 of the Covenant.

32. Subsequent to its consideration of the special reports, the Human Rights Committee provisionally adopted an amendment to its rules of procedure designed to cover the submission of all special reports it urgently requests as a result of situations of serious human rights violations, including the violations of the rights of minorities.

B. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

33. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination does not have any specific articles aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities. CERD can contribute to the implementation of the Declaration by calling attention to incidents of racial hatred and violence or appealing for racial or ethnic tolerance by persons, groups or organizations, notably by elected or other officials.

C. Other treaty bodies

34. Other treaty bodies can also contribute to the implementation of the Declaration by working to ensure that the human rights set forth in the pertinent conventions are enjoyed without discrimination and by raising specific questions relating to minorities.

35. The Secretary-General, in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the work of the Organization, 6/ emphasized the fundamental importance of preventing human rights violations before they occur. In this regard, the United Nations must be able to identify situations which could degenerate into violations and to take preventive measures. In situations of tension related to minorities, for example, intervention based on widely accepted standards could dissipate misunderstandings and help build a framework for living together.

36. The report of the Secretary-General also identified "the need to consider ways to empower the Secretary-General and the expert human rights bodies to bring massive violations of human rights to the attention of the Security Council together with recommendations for action". The chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies, at their fourth meeting, expressed their full support for the statement by the Secretary-General and urged the treaty bodies to take all appropriate measures in response to such situations. 7/

V. SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

37. There are cases in which special rapporteurs and independent experts, appointed by United Nations human rights bodies to investigate human rights situations in specific regions and countries, as well as thematic issues such as religious intolerance, find themselves face to face with violations of minority rights. In this connection, they can examine how the provisions of the Declaration are implemented and make relevant recommendations.

VI. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTES

38. International non-governmental organizations play an important part in promoting and protecting human rights. Either directly or through their national affiliates they are close to situations of tension, conflict, and economic and social distress. They are frequently involved in mediation and are able to mobilize international as well as national public opinion when the rights of minorities are neglected or violated. They also have well-established contacts and communications with minority groups.

39. Through research, the publishing of reports, and by serving as channels and platforms for oppressed groups on the one hand, and, on the other, by providing timely and factual information to intergovernmental bodies on human rights problems, non-governmental organizations open a new dimension in international relations. This has already had a significant impact on understanding of minority human rights issues and action to deal with them.

40. One example of such activities by non-governmental organizations and institutes for human rights is the workshop organized by the Institute for Human Rights of Abo Akademi University, in cooperation with the Minority Rights Group (International) and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and its Advisory Board for International Human Rights Affairs, held in Turku/Abo, Finland in May 1993. That meeting stressed that non-discrimination and special measures leading to the equal enjoyment of all human rights remain the basis of minority rights protection. Provisions in the Declaration that constitute further development of previously existing standards, such as those relating to existence, identity and full participation, were particularly noted. The planning and implementation of national policies and programmes, as well as programmes of cooperation and assistance among States, in accordance with article 5 of the Declaration, calls for due regard for the legitimate interests of persons belonging to minorities. New state mechanisms were called for to fulfil this commitment. It was also noted that the full participation of minorities in public life may, in some cases, call for special arrangements involving, inter alia, local government, federalism or autonomy.

41. The meeting also underlined the importance of the provisions of the Declaration for the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the realization of minority rights. Participants expressed the conviction that these organizations, as well as regional institutions such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, should do more to implement the Declaration, as well as minority rights provisions in other existing human rights instruments.

42. It was pointed out that in the promotion and protection of minority rights, including the activities undertaken by intergovernmental organizations, representatives of minorities should have the opportunity to participate and present their views. This opportunity should be extended to standard-setting, implementation, promotional activities, technical assistance and the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Full consideration should be given to the establishment of a voluntary fund to encourage the participation of minorities in this work.

43. In the view of the participants, the Declaration expresses minimum standards relevant to all national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and applicable in all situations. It is important to recognize that the implementation of the Declaration is a continuing process requiring sustained attention and resources by all parties concerned.

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

44. In his report, entitled "An Agenda for Peace", the Secretary-General noted that one of the aims of the United Nations in the changed international context must be to identify at the earliest possible stage situations that could produce conflict. The Secretary-General also noted that the stability of States would be enhanced by their commitment to human rights with a special sensitivity to the rights of minorities and by the increasingly effective machinery of the United Nations dealing with human rights.

45. Further, he stated that:

> "The time of absolute and exclusive sovereignty ... has passed; its theory was never matched by reality. ... Yet if every ethnic, religious or linguistic group claimed statehood, there would be no limit to fragmentation, and peace, security and economic well-being for all would become ever more difficult to achieve."

46. At the same time, as stated in the preamble of the Declaration, "the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities can contribute to the political and social stability of States in which they live."

47. It should be reiterated that questions relating to minorities can be satisfactorily resolved only in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law, with a functioning independent judiciary. This framework guarantees full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; equal rights and status for all citizens, including persons belonging to minorities; the free expression of all their legitimate interests and aspirations; political

pluralism; social tolerance; and the implementation of legal rules that place effective restraints on the abuse of governmental power.

48. There is evidence that many minorities are subject to grave and persistent violations of their basic rights. Therefore there is a need for protection of minority rights, especially considering recent outbreaks of violence and even civil war, which may be directly attributable to national, ethnic or religious conflicts. Given that situation, special efforts must be made to resolve specific problems in a constructive manner and through dialogue, by means of negotiations and consultations and other forms of voluntary dispute avoidance.

49. The adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly was a welcome development for the body of international standards in the field of promotion and protection of human rights of persons belonging to minorities.

50. In connection with the implementation of the Declaration, the United Nations human rights organs and bodies should be guided by the relevant provisions of the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which stated:

> "... The World Conference on Human Rights calls on the Commission on Human Rights to examine ways and means to promote and protect effectively the rights of persons belonging to minorities as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. In this context, the World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the Centre for Human Rights to provide, at the request of Governments concerned and as part of its programme of advisory services and technical assistance, qualified expertise on minority issues and human rights, as well as on the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities." 8/

51. Evidence that minority rights in general and their implementation in particular are a vital issue is manifest in the consideration of those issues and related proposals by the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission and the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission. Those proposals may be considered as a basis for further concrete measures to be taken by the relevant United Nations organizations, organs and bodies aimed at the implementation of the Declaration.

52. Much remains to be done by States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. As the World Conference on Human Rights stated measures to be taken, where appropriate, should include facilitation of their full participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development in their country. 9/

53. The importance of adopting, where necessary, special measures for the purpose of ensuring to persons belonging to national and other minorities full equality with other citizens in the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms can be reconfirmed. There is also the need to take measures to protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of

minorities and create conditions for the promotion of that identity; any such measures should be in conformity with the principles of equality and non-discrimination with respect to the other citizens of the States concerned.

54. Issues concerning persons belonging to minorities, as well as compliance with international obligations and commitments concerning the rights of such persons, are matters of legitimate international concern and consequently do not constitute an exclusively internal affair of the particular State.

55. Special efforts must be made to resolve specific problems in a constructive manner and through dialogue by means of negotiations and consultations with a view to improving the situation of persons belonging to minorities. The promotion of dialogue between States, and between States and persons belonging to minorities, with a view to the implementation of the Declaration should be encouraged. Unilateal, bilatral and multilateral efforts by Governments to explore avenues for enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of the Declaration should also be encouraged.

Notes

1/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/34 and Add.1-4.

2/ E/CN.4/1993/85.

3/ ST/HR/1/Rev.1; also United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIV.1.

4/ See A/CONF.157/PC/61/Add.10.

5/ CCPR/C/SR.1178/Add.1, para. 5.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/47/1), paras. 101-102.

7/ A/47/628, para. 43.

8/ A/CONF.157/23, chap. II.B.2, para. 25.

9/ Ibid., para. 27.